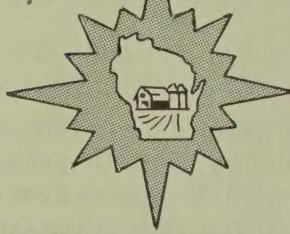


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

VOL. VI, NO. 6

- Dairy
- Crops
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April 1974

Cream of the News

Wholesale prices of Swiss cheese declined sharply at Wisconsin assembly points during March but cheddar prices were up slightly.

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during March continued under a year earlier and the milk - feed ratio was the lowest for March since 1965.

Farm product prices received by Wisconsin farmers declined from mid-February to mid-March, led by a drop of more than \$4.00 for hog prices.

Beef production in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during February was 6 percent under a year ago but pork output increased 17 percent.

Wisconsin cattle feeders had 9 percent fewer cattle and calves on feed April 1 than a year earlier while the 23 major feeding states were down 8 percent.

Stocks of meat and cheese in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of March were substantially above last year but butter stocks were down by more than half.

Wool production in Wisconsin and the Nation during 1973 was down from 1972 and prices were up considerably.

Cash receipts from the sale of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, and lambs in Wisconsin reached a record high of \$546 million for 1973.

Milk prices in Wisconsin continued to increase slightly during March and could average \$8.72 a hundredweight for all milk of average test.

The Nation's cheese production during February was 20 percent more than a year earlier but butter production was down by 18 percent.

Beef prices at St. Paul and Kansas City declined from February to March as did prices of barrows and gilts at St. Paul.

Cash income from the sale of poultry and eggs in Wisconsin during 1973 increased 88 percent from 1972.

222-4-74

MILK PRODUCTION REMAINS LOWER

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during March continued under the previous year. Dairy herds in Wisconsin produced 1,615 million pounds of milk in March, a decline of 4 percent from a year ago. Production in the first quarter of 1974 was down 3 percent from the same quarter last year.

Wisconsin's milk production increased seasonally 15 percent from February to March, about the same gain as in 1973. Output per cow averaged 900 pounds for March, a drop of 20 pounds from the previous year. Daily feeding of grain and other concentrates to Wisconsin milk cows averaged 13½ pounds per cow as of April 1, a slight decrease from a year earlier and about a pound less than two years ago.

The Nation's milk production for March was 3 percent under March 1973. Production per cow was about the same as a year ago but the number of milk cows on farms was down 3 percent. The milk-feed ratio for March was also 3 percent below the previous year and the lowest March ratio since 1965. Feeding of grain and concentrates averaged almost 14 pounds per cow on April 1, unchanged from last year on that date.

Milk Production

Selected States	March 1973	March 1974	Jan.-March 1974	Change from last year	
				March	Jan.-March
Million pounds					
Wisconsin . . .	1,674	1,615	4,506	- 4	- 3
Minnesota . . .	907	939	2,576	+ 4	+ 1
Iowa	361	311	895	- 14	- 13
New York . . .	880	854	2,406	- 3	- 3
Pennsylvania . .	587	570	1,623	- 3	- 2
California . . .	859	884	2,485	+ 3	+ 2
Other states . .	4,945	4,760	13,431	- 4	- 4
United States . .	10,213	9,933	27,922	- 3	- 3

MILK PRICES CONTINUE SLIGHTLY HIGHER

Milk prices in Wisconsin continued to increase slightly during March. Wisconsin dairy farmers are expected to receive an average of \$8.72 a hundredweight for all milk of

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average test sold in March. This would be 3 cents more than February and \$2.69 above March 1973.

Milk prices for February averaged \$8.69 a hundredweight, up 7 cents from January and \$2.74 higher than a year earlier. Milkfat content averaged 3.76 percent in February compared with 3.79 percent in January and 3.73 percent a year ago.

Grade A milk producers received an average of \$8.84 a hundredweight in February, a gain of 9 cents from the previous month and \$2.74 above last year. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$8.47 a hundredweight for February, up 4 cents from January and \$2.71 greater than February 1973. The spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 37 cents in February compared with 34 cents a year ago.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	January 1974		February price per cwt.			March 1974 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1973	1974	74/73 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.79	8.62	5.95	8.69	+ 46	8.72
Minnesota	3.69	8.23	5.59	8.23	+ 47	8.25
Iowa	3.82	8.57	5.83	8.68	+ 49	8.70
New York	3.65	8.80	6.85	8.90	+ 30	8.90
California	3.84	7.95	6.05	7.70	+ 27	7.70
United States	3.79	8.89	6.56	8.92	+ 36	8.93
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.81	8.75	6.10	8.84	+ 45	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.77	8.43	5.76	8.47	+ 47	xxx
Creameries	3.74	8.36	5.62	8.39	+ 49	xxx
Cheese factories .	3.77	8.44	5.78	8.47	+ 47	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.77	8.42	5.67	8.46	+ 49	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Feb. 1973	Jan. 1974	Feb. 1974 2/	Change from last year	Dollars per cwt.		Percent
Milk for all uses	5.58	7.96	8.09	+ 45			
Market milk	5.72	8.04	8.19	+ 43			
Manufacturing milk	5.42	7.83	7.95	+ 47			
Creameries	5.29	7.82	7.94	+ 50			
American cheese plants	5.45	7.84	7.96	+ 46			
Varied products plants	5.33	7.82	7.94	+ 49			
Federal Order Markets							
Chicago Regional Base Zone	6.02	8.53	8.67	+ 44			

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

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Statisticians

H. M. Walters, In Charge

M. E. Johnson, Assistant in Charge

M. A. Anderson

L. E. Krahm

J. S. Buche

C. W. LeGrande

Editor

Marvin Heiser

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CHEESE PRODUCTION UP 20 PERCENT FROM YEAR AGO

Production of all cheese in the Nation during February was 20 percent higher than in February 1973. Output of American cheese for February increased 28 percent from a year earlier while Italian cheese production rose 13 percent. Production of Swiss cheese during February was down 3 percent from the previous year. Brick and Muenster output declined 1 percent from February 1973 but all other cheese increased 3 percent.

Wisconsin factories produced almost 64 million pounds of American cheese in February, up 14 percent from a year ago. Production of American cheese in Minnesota during February was a third more than last year while Missouri was up 60 percent and other states increased 40 percent.

Butter production in the Nation continued lower as churning in February were 18 percent under the previous year. Wisconsin creameries made 16 percent less butter in February than a year earlier and Minnesota was down 3 percent. Iowa's butter production for February dropped 60 percent from February 1973 and other states declined 20 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	February 1973	February 1974	Jan.-Feb. 1974	Change from last year	
				Feb.	Jan.-Feb.
1,000 pounds					
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	16,600	13,950	30,800	- 16	- 9
Minnesota	18,500	17,900	37,500	- 3	- 2
Iowa	5,750	2,280	5,080	- 60	- 57
Other states	43,587	34,863	76,180	- 20	- 21
United States	84,437	68,993	149,560	- 18	- 17
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	55,900	63,750	127,750	+ 14	+ 14
Minnesota	17,400	23,140	48,740	+ 33	+ 35
Missouri	5,000	8,000	14,450	+ 60	+ 42
Other states	41,845	58,662	115,731	+ 40	+ 36
United States	120,145	153,552	306,671	+ 28	+ 26
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	13,695	13,262	26,991	- 3	- 6
Brick and Muenster	5,853	5,770	11,362	- 1	+ 2
Italian	40,512	45,682	95,836	+ 13	+ 16
All other	13,527	13,904	31,378	+ 3	+ 3
Total	73,587	78,618	165,567	+ 7	+ 8
ALL CHEESE					
United States	193,732	232,170	472,238	+ 20	+ 19
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	64,186	55,673	110,691	- 13	- 15
Creamed 2/	81,859	68,882	139,355	- 16	- 17
1,000 gallons					
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,400	1,250	2,500	- 11	- 9
Illinois	3,500	3,300	6,460	- 6	- 6
Iowa	510	550	1,040	+ 8	+ 2
Michigan	2,800	2,877	5,242	+ 3	- 6
Minnesota	2,325	2,135	4,380	- 8	- 4
Other states	46,444	46,677	91,530	+ 1	n. c.
United States	56,979	56,789	111,152	n. c.	- 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

Ice cream production in the Nation during February showed little change from the previous year. Output of cottage cheese curd for February was 13 percent below a year ago and creamed cottage cheese production declined 16 percent.

WHOLESALE SWISS CHEESE PRICES DECLINE SHARPLY

Wholesale prices of Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, declined sharply from February to March. Swiss cheese averaged \$1.09½ cents a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during March, down 6½ cents from the previous month but almost 30 cents higher than last year.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged \$91½ cents a pound for March, up slightly from February and more than 26 cents above a year ago.

The 92-score butter price at New York averaged nearly 70 cents a pound in March, an increase of 4½ cents from a month earlier.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	March 1973	February 1974	March 1974 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	2/	65.32¢	69.81¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 3/ . . .	65.19¢	91.06¢	91.25¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 3/	79.65¢	116.00¢	109.50¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$8.65-10.10	\$11.30-11.68	\$ - - - -
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	41.99¢	57.75¢	61.52¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Not available. 3/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

BUTTER PRODUCTION TO REMAIN LOWER WHILE AMERICAN CHEESE OUTPUT INCREASES

Weekly estimates for March indicate that butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation will continue under a year ago but output of American cheese will remain substantially higher. Churnings of butter in the Nation during March could be 15 percent less than a year earlier, nearly equal to the drop shown in the first two months of 1974. Wisconsin's decline in butter production for March will probably exceed the 9 percent drop shown in January and February compared with last year.

National production of American cheese in March could be a fourth higher than the previous year and nearly equal to the gain in output for January and February. According to weekly estimates, Wisconsin's production of American cheese during March was only slightly less than the 14 percent gain for January and February compared with a year earlier.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
February . . .	68,993	- 18	- 16	153,552	+ 28	+ 14
Jan. - Feb. . .	149,560	- 17	- 9	306,671	+ 26	+ 14
Weeks ending						
March 7 . . .	17,180	- 15	- 18	39,150	+ 25	+ 13
March 14 . . .	16,600	- 19	- 20	39,600	+ 25	+ 11
March 21 . . .	17,200	- 14	- 13	40,950	+ 26	+ 14
March 28 . . .	18,100	- 12	- 7	40,800	+ 21	+ 8
Total	69,080	- 15	xxx	160,500	+ 24	xxx

CHEESE STOCKS UP CONSIDERABLY WHILE BUTTER STOCKS REMAIN LOWER

Stocks of cheese in cold storage in the Nation at the end of March were up 44 percent from a year ago while butter stocks were down 52 percent. Supplies of American cheese in cold storage on March 31 were 48 percent above the previous year. Swiss cheese stocks were 71 percent greater than on March 31, 1973 and stocks of all other cheese increased 20 percent.

The 56 million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of March were less than half of a year earlier. Government stocks of butter in cold storage on March 31 amounted to about 9 million pounds compared with over 102 million pounds on that date last year.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	March 31, 1972	March 31, 1973	March 31, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				
UNITED STATES				
Butter	110,104	117,183	56,028	- 52
Cheese, American	226,707	244,955	361,905	+ 48
Cheese, Swiss	7,103	8,713	14,868	+ 71
Cheese, all other	53,506	48,770	58,523	+ 20
Cheese, total	287,316	302,438	435,296	+ 44
WISCONSIN				
Butter	4,764	7,212	2,388	- 67
Cheese, American	130,792	160,571	204,615	+ 27
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter	84,762	102,623	8,851	- 91
Cheese, American	948	173	544	+ 214

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	Feb. 29, 1972	Feb. 28, 1973	Feb. 28, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				
Percent				
Dried whole milk	3,933	4,112	7,506	+ 83
Dried skim milk	64,588	37,724	55,138	+ 46
Dried buttermilk	4,024	4,100	5,734	+ 40
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . .	63,984	55,159	57,501	+ 4

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

1973 LIVESTOCK CASH RECEIPTS UP SUBSTANTIALLY

Although the total pounds of meat animals marketed by Wisconsin farmers during 1973 were down 10 percent from 1972, cash receipts from livestock sales were up 22 percent. Cash receipts from the sale of cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep and lambs totaled almost \$546 million for 1973.

Record prices were received in 1973 for cattle, calves, hogs, and lambs. Cattle averaged \$34.30 a hundredweight for 1973, an increase of \$7.60 from the previous year. Calves, at \$58.90 a hundredweight in 1973, were \$11.60 higher than in 1972. Hogs averaged \$37.50 a hundredweight for 1973, a gain of \$12.60 from a year earlier. Sheep prices averaged \$10.00 per 100 pounds in 1973, up \$3.90 from 1972. Lambs, at \$31.40 a hundredweight for 1973, were \$4.00 above the previous year.

On the pound basis, marketings of cattle and calves in 1973 were 6½ percent below 1972 while cash receipts increased 19 percent. Total pounds of hogs marketed in 1973 were down 15 percent from a year earlier but cash receipts

rose 28 percent. Marketings of sheep and lambs during 1973 were 12 percent under 1972 on the pound basis but cash receipts showed a slight gain.

CATTLE AND CALVES: Production and Income, Wisconsin, 1964 - 73

Year	Production 1/	Marketings 2/	Price per 100 pounds		Cash receipts	Value of home consumption	Gross income	Cost of inshipments
			Cattle	Calves				
1,000 pounds								
1964	1,106,965	999,605	13.70	22.30	149,881	7,856	157,737	5,708
1965	1,054,655	1,216,095	14.70	23.60	192,568	8,071	200,639	5,572
1966	982,275	1,067,117	17.90	28.40	205,755	9,849	215,604	9,139
1967	998,005	1,017,580	17.90	29.00	197,730	10,849	208,579	8,593
1968	983,860	1,002,279	18.50	31.30	203,775	10,839	214,614	8,286
1969	974,775	971,847	21.10	34.50	224,109	14,231	238,340	11,638
1970	1,037,190	942,058	22.00	38.10	230,039	18,161	248,200	14,256
1971	1,016,690	906,412	22.50	39.80	229,887	19,594	249,481	3/
1972	1,004,450	961,994	26.70	47.30	287,765	21,500	309,265	3/
1973	929,990	899,464	34.30	58.90	341,587	19,612	361,199	3/

1/Adjustments made for numbers shipped in and changes in inventory. 2/Excludes inter-farm sales. 3/Discontinued.

HOGS: Production and Income, Wisconsin, 1964 - 73

Year	Production 1/	Marketings 2/	Price per 100 pounds		Cash receipts	Value of home consumption	Gross income	Cost of inshipments
			Cattle	Calves				
1,000 pounds								
1964	718,763	742,322	14.60	108,247	3,659	111,906	36	
1965	642,695	658,070	18.90	124,375	3,353	127,728	47	
1966	682,540	623,196	23.20	144,581	3,790	148,371	101	
1967	678,734	661,846	18.80	124,427	2,978	127,405	97	
1968	720,904	706,649	18.30	129,317	3,352	132,669	30	
1969	657,487	656,894	21.90	143,860	3,548	147,408	84	
1970	716,766	678,538	22.50	152,671	3,544	156,215	96	
1971	726,983	732,262	17.80	130,343	2,703	133,046	3/	
1972	614,036	631,887	24.90	157,340	4,202	161,542	3/	
1973	566,768	537,482	37.50	201,556	7,518	209,074	3/	

1/Adjustments made for numbers shipped in and changes in inventory. 2/Excludes inter-farm sales. 3/Discontinued.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Production and Income, Wisconsin, 1964 - 73

Year	Production 1/	Marketings 2/	Price per 100 pounds		Cash receipts	Value of home consumption	Gross income	Cost of inshipments
			Sheep	Lambs				
1,000 pounds								
1964	11,847	14,467	4.70	19.00	2,467	37	2,504	210
1965	12,036	13,713	5.20	21.20	2,684	44	2,729	236
1966	11,346	12,647	5.60	22.00	2,591	60	2,651	367
1967	11,857	12,804	5.30	20.90	2,471	51	2,522	181
1968	12,140	13,763	5.30	23.30	2,798	60	2,858	291
1969	10,257	13,272	6.70	26.50	2,994	37	3,031	287
1970	9,796	12,211	6.20	25.10	2,657	35	2,692	265
1971	8,577	10,067	5.60	24.80	2,231	35	2,266	3/
1972	8,312	10,799	6.10	27.40	2,591	38	2,629	3/
1973	7,656	9,556	10.00	31.40	2,607	44	2,651	3/

1/Adjustments made for numbers shipped in and changes in inventory. 2/Excludes inter-farm sales. 3/Discontinued.

FARM PRODUCT PRICES LOWER IN MID-MARCH

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for farm products sold during the month ending March 15 were down from a month earlier for most items. The index of prices received for all farm products averaged 565 percent of the 1910-14 base as of mid-March, a decline of 6 points (1 percent) from the previous month.

Hog prices averaged \$34.40 a hundredweight on March 15, down \$4.40 from February and \$3.10 lower than last year. Hog prices had been higher than the previous year since September 1971.

Steers and heifers averaged \$38.10 a hundredweight in March, a decline of \$1.20 from a month earlier and \$4.40

under March 1973. This was the first time that steers and heifers were lower than the previous year since March 1971. While slaughter cows increased 10 cents from February to March, the mid-March average of \$32.30 a hundredweight was 70 cents below a year ago.

Calves averaged \$53.30 a hundredweight in March, down 20 cents from the previous month and \$4.70 less than last year.

Lambs continued unchanged at \$35.00 a hundredweight from February to March but were \$1.00 under March 1973. Sheep increased 60 cents from February to March and at \$11.90 a hundredweight were \$3.10 above a year ago. The mid-March wool price of 48 cents a pound was 8 cents lower than a month earlier and 18 cents below the previous year.

Egg prices dropped 4 cents from February to March but at 57 cents a dozen were 10 cents more than last year. Turkey prices remained at 35 cents a pound liveweight from February to March but were up 7 cents from March 15, 1973.

Corn prices averaged a record high of \$2.75 a bushel as of mid-March, an increase of 2 cents from February and more than double a year ago when corn was \$1.32 a bushel. Wheat, oats, and soybeans declined in price from February to March. At \$4.89 a bushel in March, wheat was down 55 cents from a month earlier but well above the \$1.96 for March 15, 1973.

Oats dropped 10 cents a bushel from February to March. This was the first decline in oat prices since July 1973. Oats averaged \$1.45 a bushel in March, 60 cents higher than last year. The mid-March soybean price of \$5.74 a bushel was 13 cents under February and 26 below a year ago. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$35.00 a ton on March 15, unchanged from February but up 50 cents from March 1973.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	March 15, 1972	March 15, 1973	Feb. 15, 1974	March 15, 1974
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	430.00	540.00	630.00	650.00
Steers and heifers .	Cwt.	31.80	42.50	39.30	38.10
Cows	Cwt.	24.00	33.00	32.20	32.30
Calves	Cwt.	47.00	58.00	53.50	53.30
Hogs	Cwt.	23.20	37.50	38.80	34.40
Sheep	Cwt.	5.80	8.80	10.50	11.90
Lambs	Cwt.	27.00	34.00	35.00	35.00
Wool	Lb.	.20	.66	.56	.48
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.090	.120	.155	.145
Turkeys	Lb.	.220	.280	.350	.350
Eggs	Doz.	.270	.470	.610	.572
Corn	Bu.	1.13	1.32	2.73	2.75
Wheat	Bu.	1.41	1.96	5.44	4.89
Oats	Bu.	.72	.85	1.55	1.45
Soybeans	Bu.	3.15	6.00	5.87	5.74
Alfalfa hay, baled .	Ton	23.00	34.50	35.00	35.00

1/Excludes broilers.

MEAT STOCKS UP FROM LAST YEAR

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of March were 37 percent more than the previous year. Supplies of beef were up by a third and pork stocks increased 43 percent from March 31, 1973.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	Mar. 31, 1972	Mar. 31, 1973	Feb. 28, 1974	Mar. 31, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds					
Beef:					
Frozen	276,042	348,162	435,117	463,713	+ 33
In cure and cured	9,999	11,161	12,393	12,780	+ 15
Total	286,041	359,323	447,510	476,493	+ 33
Pork:					
Frozen	306,181	222,322	290,969	322,416	+ 45
In cooler	21,527	17,288	16,255	19,519	+ 13
Total	327,708	239,610	307,224	341,935	+ 43
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	8,538	11,723	12,221	13,514	+ 15
Lamb and mutton, frozen	12,238	10,920	12,438	13,503	+ 24
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	75,970	49,515	68,328	79,865	+ 61
Other meats	21,864	15,931	16,596	17,918	+ 12
Total, all meats	732,359	687,022	864,317	943,228	+ 37

There were nearly 477 million pounds of beef in cold storage on March 31, an increase of 29 million pounds from the previous month and 117 million pounds above last year. Pork stocks totaled almost 342 million pounds at the end of March, a gain of about 35 million pounds from a month earlier and 102 million more than in storage March 31, 1973.

With both beef and pork stocks up substantially from a year ago, total meat in cold storage at the end of March was 37 percent greater than on that date last year.

FEWER CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle feeders in Wisconsin had 9 percent fewer cattle and calves on feed April 1 than a year ago while the number on feed in the 23 major feeding states was down 8 percent.

Placements of cattle on feed in Wisconsin during the January - March quarter totaled 32,000, a decline of 16 percent from that quarter in 1973. Marketings of fed cattle from Wisconsin feedlots in the first quarter of this year numbered 50,000, down 4 percent from the comparable period last year. Cattle feeders in the State expect to market 58,000 head during April through June. This would be an increase of 6,000 from the actual marketings for the second quarter of 1973.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 23 major states during January through March were down 12 percent from a year earlier. Marketings of fed cattle in the first quarter of 1974 were 8 percent under the same period last year but expected marketings during April through June may be up 1 percent from that quarter a year ago.

Texas, the largest cattle feeding state in the Nation, had 2 percent less cattle on feed April 1 than a year ago. Iowa cattle feeders had 11 percent fewer cattle on feed than on April 1, 1973, while Nebraska was down 9 percent.

Cattle and Calves on Feed by Quarters, April 1, 1973, January 1, and April 1, 1974 1/

State	April 1, 1973	January 1, 1974	April 1, 1974	Change from last year
				1,000 head
Arizona	614	609	558	- 9
California	1,046	1,209	962	- 8
Colorado	946	930	864	- 9
Idaho	192	172	172	- 10
Illinois	560	530	500	- 11
Indiana	253	263	245	- 3
Iowa	1,960	1,715	1,740	- 11
Kansas	1,230	1,160	1,080	- 12
Michigan	230	220	230	n. c.
Minnesota	467	464	430	- 8
Missouri	270	250	220	- 19
Montana	140	122	114	- 19
Nebraska	1,520	1,525	1,380	- 9
New Mexico	230	232	235	+ 2
North Dakota	50	49	41	- 18
Ohio	277	280	263	- 5
Oklahoma	274	292	289	+ 5
Oregon	60	77	60	n. c.
Pennsylvania	79	86	78	- 1
South Dakota	350	381	360	+ 3
Texas	2,259	2,205	2,219	- 2
Washington	180	160	152	- 16
Wisconsin	129	136	118	- 9
23 States	13,316	13,067	12,310	- 8

1/Cattle and calves on feed are animals fattened for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates which are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better.

POULTRY INCOME UP CONSIDERABLY IN 1973

Cash income from the sale of farm chickens, broilers, and eggs totaled \$71 million in Wisconsin during 1973, an increase of 88 percent from 1972. Egg production for 1973 was down almost 4 percent from a year earlier but income from the sale of eggs jumped 90 percent. Egg prices averaged nearly 51 cents a dozen for 1973, almost double the 1972

price of 26 cents. Income from the sale of farm chickens in 1973 rose 40 percent above 1972.

The price per pound for broilers averaged 26 cents in 1973, an increase of 11 cents from a year earlier. Gross income for broilers in 1973 was 90 percent higher than in 1972. Turkey prices for 1973 averaged 36 cents a pound, up almost 14 cents from the previous year. Gross income for turkeys was 69 percent above 1972 as pounds marketed increased more than 4 percent.

CHICKENS: Production, Disposition, and Income, Wisconsin, 1966 - 73

Year	Production and disposition of chickens						Income from chickens			Cash income from farm chickens, broilers and eggs 1/	
	Number				Sold		Cash income	Value of chickens consumed on farms	Gross income		
	Raised	Lost	Produced	Consumed on farms	Number	Weight					
	1,000 head						1,000 pounds			1,000 dollars	
1966	5,484	1,059	4,425	819	3,356	15,773	20,821	1,325	303	1,628	49,660
1967	4,716	936	3,780	901	3,318	15,595	18,015	1,060	282	1,342	38,599
1968	4,340	700	3,640	901	3,563	16,746	15,796	1,088	269	1,357	40,037
1969	4,600	694	3,906	865	3,433	16,822	18,658	1,144	276	1,420	46,434
1970	5,900	680	5,220	760	3,204	16,020	24,774	1,185	259	1,444	45,621
1971	5,050	890	4,160	560	3,600	18,000	20,962	1,494	214	1,708	40,925
1972	4,536	720	3,816	500	3,700	18,500	19,315	1,573	196	1,769	37,876
1973	4,272	700	3,572	500	3,300	16,500	17,548	2,195	306	2,501	71,033

1/Includes gross income for broilers. Consumption in households of producers is less than 1 percent of production in Wisconsin.

EGGS: Production, Disposition, and Income, Wisconsin, 1966 - 73

Year	Average number of layers during year	Eggs per layer	Production and disposition			Income			
			Produced	Consumed on farms	Sold	Price per dozen	Cash income	Value of eggs consumed on farms	Gross income
	1,000	Number	Million eggs						1,000 dollars
1966	6,269	222	1,392	64	1,328	36.1	39,951	1,925	41,876
1967	6,121	226	1,385	61	1,324	26.9	29,680	1,367	31,047
1968	5,599	224	1,256	58	1,198	30.4	30,349	1,469	31,818
1969	5,036	226	1,139	49	1,090	39.1	35,516	1,597	37,113
1970	5,225	225	1,178	44	1,134	37.5	35,438	1,375	36,813
1971	5,890	228	1,344	35	1,309	28.0	30,543	817	31,360
1972	5,806	226	1,313	26	1,287	25.9	27,778	561	28,339
1973	5,574	227	1,267	25	1,242	50.9	52,682	1,060	53,742

TURKEYS AND BROILERS: Production, Disposition, and Income, Wisconsin, 1966 - 73

Year	Turkeys						Broilers				
	Number on farms January 1			Production		Price per pound	Gross income 1/	Production		Price per pound	Gross income 1/
	Heavy breeds	Light breeds	All breeds	Number	Sold			Number	Sold		
	1,000						1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars
1966	250	41	291	5,519	91,919	23.1	21,233	13,959	54,440	15.4	8,384
1967	360	11	371	5,068	90,376	18.9	17,081	14,238	56,952	13.8	7,859
1968	330	3	333	3,997	73,802	20.1	14,834	14,238	56,952	15.1	8,600
1969	200	7	207	3,166	59,167	22.6	13,372	14,807	60,709	16.1	9,774
1970	185	7	192	3,489	66,640	23.1	15,394	15,031	61,627	14.6	8,998
1971	164	7	171	3,498	64,013	22.2	14,211	14,950	61,295	14.5	8,888
1972	2/	2/	2/	4,009	78,176	22.2	17,355	13,130	56,459	15.1	8,525
1973	2/	2/	2/	4,229	81,620	36.0	29,383	14,795	62,139	26.0	16,156

1/Includes consumption in households of producers which is less than 1 percent of production for the United States. 2/Estimate for all turkeys discontinued.

SPRING FIELD WORK MAKING SOME PROGRESS

Spring field work in Wisconsin got off to a slow start but some progress was made after mid-April. Rain and snow on Easter Sunday saturated fields in the south and east but a few sunny days and warm, windy weather the following weekend helped to dry off the surface enough to permit some plowing and planting of oats on lighter soils. About 8 percent of the oat acreage was sown by April 22nd compared with 10 percent last year and the past ten year average.

Only 1968 and 1970 had more oats in the ground by that date.

Spring plowing was 10 percent finished as of April 22nd, slightly behind last year's 15 percent but equal to the normal progress for the past ten years. Much plowing had been done last fall so planting of oats and other crops should go fast once field conditions are dry enough to be worked. Soil moisture was reported as 65 percent adequate and 35 percent surplus, with most of the surpluses in the east and south. Although most fields had some wet spots in them, the

water tables are not as high as a year ago when heavy rains in the fall of 1972 and the spring of 1973 made for a long and late planting season.

WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN IN 1973 AND PRICES UP CONSIDERABLY

Wool production in Wisconsin and the Nation during 1973 was down from 1972 but prices were considerably higher. The 1973 wool crop in Wisconsin totaled 822,000 pounds, 14 percent below a year earlier and the smallest crop ever. Fleece weights averaged 8.0 pounds in 1973 compared with 8.2 pounds in 1972 and the number of sheep shorn declined by 11 percent. Wool producers in Wisconsin received an annual average price of 69 cents a pound for 1973 compared with only 27 cents in 1972. The value of wool production in Wisconsin for 1973 was more than double the 1972 crop.

Nationally, wool production during 1973 was down 8 percent from the previous year. Fleece weights were lighter in 1973 and the number of sheep shorn declined by 6 percent. The average price received by wool producers for shorn wool during 1973 was nearly 83 cents a pound compared with 35 cents in 1972.

Wool Production

Major States and United States	Number of sheep shorn		Weight per fleece		Wool production		
	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973	Change from last year
Arizona . . .	492	473	7.5	7.4	3,692	3,511	- 5
California . .	1,415	1,385	8.9	8.7	12,626	11,995	- 5
Colorado . .	1,360	1,440	8.4	7.9	11,473	11,354	- 1
Idaho . . .	659	627	10.5	10.7	6,949	6,728	- 3
Illinois . .	295	270	7.2	7.1	2,137	1,923	- 10
Indiana . .	216	205	7.7	8.0	1,657	1,640	- 1
Iowa . . .	717	624	7.7	7.5	5,545	4,694	- 15
Kansas . .	320	294	8.8	8.3	2,800	2,444	- 13
Michigan . .	221	201	8.3	8.3	1,841	1,666	- 10
Minnesota . .	423	385	8.1	7.8	3,430	2,989	- 13
Missouri . .	212	194	8.2	7.8	1,740	1,521	- 13
Montana . .	853	774	10.0	9.9	8,501	7,663	- 10
Nebraska . .	363	334	7.3	7.2	2,644	2,416	- 9
Nevada . .	158	148	10.3	10.1	1,627	1,495	- 8
New Mexico . .	668	682	9.2	9.4	6,134	6,402	+ 4
North Dakota . .	315	301	9.3	9.3	2,930	2,799	- 4
Ohio . . .	606	560	8.2	8.0	4,959	4,499	- 9
Oregon . .	621	569	7.8	7.4	4,823	4,206	- 13
Pennsylvania . .	138	132	7.3	7.2	1,007	950	- 6
South Dakota . .	1,160	1,070	9.1	9.1	10,504	9,695	- 8
Texas . . .	4,145	3,785	7.1	7.0	29,430	26,352	- 10
Utah . . .	896	774	10.3	10.0	9,218	7,760	- 16
Virginia . .	163	161	6.1	6.1	994	982	- 1
Washington . .	134	126	9.3	9.2	1,240	1,161	- 6
West Virginia . .	141	136	5.7	5.8	804	789	- 2
Wisconsin . .	116	103	8.2	8.0	951	822	- 14
Wyoming . .	1,576	1,475	10.2	9.8	16,062	14,497	- 10
United States	18,816	17,614	8.4	8.3	158,918	145,725	- 8

BEEF PRODUCTION DOWN BUT PORK OUTPUT UP

Production of beef in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during February was 6 percent below a year ago but pork production increased 17 percent. Total output of red meat for February was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

The February cattle kill of 94,500 was 6,500 less than the previous year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered in February was 1,142 pounds, a slight gain of 4 pounds from last year.

February's hog slaughter of 256,000 was 22,000 more

than a year earlier. The average liveweight of hogs butchered during February was 247 pounds, 16 pounds heavier than in February 1973.

Calf slaughter in February amounted to 21,600, up 2,800 from a year ago. At 155 pounds average liveweight for February, calves were 21 pounds lighter than the previous year. The sheep and lamb kill of 200 during February was the same as a year earlier.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	February		Change from last year	February	
	1973	1974		1973	1974
	1,000 head			1,000 head	
Cattle			Percent	Million pounds	
Wisconsin . . .	101.0	94.5	- 6	114.9	107.9
United States 1/ . .	2,672.8	2,543.1	- 5	2,798.4	2,702.6
Calves					
Wisconsin . . .	18.8	21.6	+ 15	3.3	3.3
United States 1/ . .	206.4	185.5	- 10	52.7	43.6
Hogs					
Wisconsin . . .	234.0	256.0	+ 9	54.1	63.2
United States 1/ . .	6,091.1	5,960.9	- 2	1,442.2	1,448.0
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin2	.2	n. c.	.019	.020
United States 1/ . .	721.0	628.8	- 13	78.7	69.4

1/Excludes Alaska.

MORE WORKERS ON FARMS THIS SPRING

As the spring season began, the number of workers on Wisconsin farms was 2,000 more than a year ago due to an increase in hired laborers. Wage rates paid to hired help as of April 1 were higher than on that date in 1973.

Farm Workers and Wages Wisconsin and United States

Item	Wisconsin		United States	
	1973	1974	1973	1974
March				
Farm Workers 1/				
Hired	16,000	20,000	884,100	874,500
Family	149,000	147,000	2,910,100	2,896,200
Total	165,000	167,000	3,794,200	3,770,700
April 1				
	1973	1974	1973	1974
Wage Rates 2/				
By the month				
With house	\$411.00	\$452.00	\$383.00	\$408.00
With board and room	313.00	342.00	303.00	324.00
By the day				
With board and room	13.10	14.20	12.20	13.40
Without board and room	16.60	17.70	14.10	15.40
By the hour				
No board or room	2.02	2.17	1.97	2.21

1/Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month. 2/Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above.

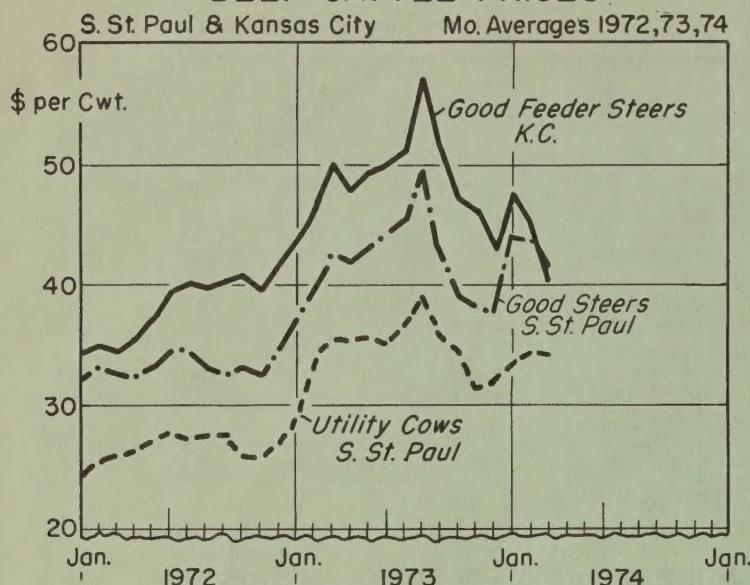
BEEF MARKET DROPS

Prices of good grade feeder steers at the Kansas City market declined from February to March as did fed steers and utility cows at the St. Paul market. Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$41.78 a hundredweight at Kansas City in March, down \$3.72 from

February and well below the price of \$50.31 in March 1973.

Good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$40.23 a hundredweight at St. Paul during March, a decline of \$3.53 from a month earlier and \$2.45 under the previous year. Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$34.06 a hundredweight for March, a drop of 34 cents from February and \$1.44 lower than last year.

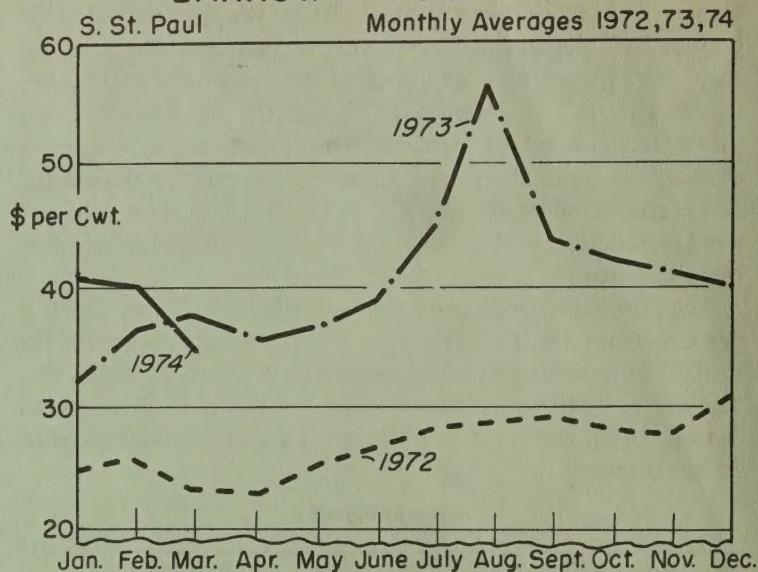
BEEF CATTLE PRICES



HOG MARKET DECLINES SHARPLY

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market declined sharply during March. The average price of \$34.75 a hundredweight for March was \$5.31 less than February and \$2.96 below a year ago. This was the first time since September 1971 that prices of barrows and gilts at St. Paul were lower than the previous year.

BARROW and GILT PRICES



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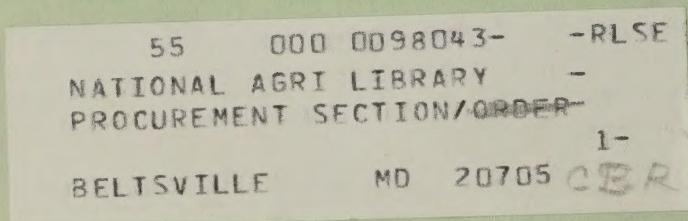
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